United Nations A/56/686

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 21 and 68

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

Letter dated 6 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write in my capacity as representative of the country holding the Presidency of the Central European Initiative, for the current year.

I have been requested by the Member States of the Central European Initiative to seek your assistance in having the final document of the meeting of the Heads of Government of the Member States of the Central European Initiative, adopted on 23 November 2001 in Trieste, Italy (see annex), circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 21 and 68.

(*Signed*) Sergio **Vento**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Member States of the Central European Initiative

Final document

1. The Heads of Government of the Member States of the Central European Initiative (CEI) held their annual Summit meeting in Trieste on 23 November 2001. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy, holding the CEI Presidency for the current year.

2. The meeting was attended by the Heads of Government or their representatives of Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Representatives of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII), the Organisation for Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC), the Danube Commission, the Southeast European Co-operation Process (SEECP), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative (SECI) attended the meeting in their capacity of special guests.

The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly and of the Central European Chambers of Commerce Initiative (CECCI).

The Head of the CEI - Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) and the Head of the Secretariat for CEI Projects also participated in the meeting.

Political Part

3. The Heads of Government condemned the terrorist attack of 11 September 2001 and declared their full solidarity to the innocent victims and to the American people. These attacks are an assault on our open, democratic, tolerant and multicultural societies. They are a challenge to the conscience of each human being and are regarded by the UN Security Council as a threat to international peace and security. The Heads of Government reiterated the will of the CEI countries to fully co-operate, within the global coalition against terrorism, in bringing to justice and punishing the perpetrators, sponsors and accomplices of such barbaric acts. At the same time, they expressed their conviction that the regional co-operation and the integration of all countries into a fair world system of security, prosperity and development is a condition for a strong and sustainable community for combating terrorism. Responding to the appeal issued by the Extraordinary European Council held in Brussels on 21 September 2001, they reiterated the importance of pursuing, in all multilateral fora, dialogue and negotiation with a view to build a world of peace and tolerance. In this respect they emphasised the need to combat and eradicate terrorism as well as any racist and xenophobic drift and rejected any equation of terrorism with the Muslim world.

4. The Heads of Government reiterated their full support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of Macedonia.

They welcomed the recent adoption of the changes in the Constitution by the Macedonian Parliament and supported the full implementation of the Framework Agreement.

They also welcomed the commitment of political forces in the country to the integration into European structures.

The Heads of Government called for an efficient action for the returning of the internally displaced persons and condemned in the strongest terms all attempts to use violence to achieve political goals.

They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen international efforts to assist Macedonia to overcome the consequences of the crisis, including the organisation of a Donors' Conference.

5. The Heads of Government welcomed the 17 November 2001 elections in Kosovo as an important step in realising a democratic and multi-ethnic society. Expecting that a provisional self-government will be established expeditiously and that all Kosovo's communities will participate in the political process, they reaffirmed the validity of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

The Heads of Government also called for the continuation of a constructive dialogue between Belgrade and Podgorica in order to achieve a mutually acceptable constitutional arrangement within the FRY.

6. The Heads of Government took note of the result of the presidential elections held on 9 September 2001 in Belarus and shared the conclusions of the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report published on 3 October 2001. They also took note of the conclusions of other observation missions of the European organisations.

The Heads of Government emphasised that strengthening of the democratisation process in the country must continue with the view to better integrate Belarus in the standards and values shared by the European countries.

7. The Heads of Government welcomed the very substantial progress in the process of the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe. They also welcomed the efforts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to join the Council of Europe.

Regional Co-operation

8. The Heads of Government reaffirmed their conviction that closer regional co-operation is the most effective tool to foster political stability, democracy, economic progress and social development in the South Eastern Europe region. A successful regional co-operation is conducive to accelerate the integration of the region into European structures.

9. The Heads of Government reiterated the crucial role which the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe is playing for the stability and progress of this part of the CEI region, and the support of CEI Member States to the implementation of SP programmes and projects. They encouraged all CEI working bodies to contribute to the transferring of the experiences gained by the SP to CEI MS which are not taking full part in the SP, in particular in trade liberalisation.

The Heads of Government welcomed the results of the Second Regional Conference for South East Europe, held on 25-26 October 2001 in Bucharest, organised jointly by the Stability Pact, European Commission, World Bank and the Romanian Government.

The Heads of Government supported that the Czech Republic, Poland and the Slovak Republic be admitted as participants of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe during its next Regional Table to be held in 2002.

10. The Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction with the progress made by the CEI Member States in the process of integration to the European mainstream organisations, in particular to the European Union. They stressed the importance of the process of enlargement of the EU as a fundamental contribution to the stability, democracy and economic development in Europe. They also reiterated the importance of maintaining the roadmap defined at the European Council in Nice for the conclusion of the accession negotiations of the most advanced candidate countries by the end of 2002.

The Heads of Government also appreciated the progress in implementing the criteria of the EU Stabilisation and Association Process made by individual CEI Member States.

They complimented Croatia on the signing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement which is a crucial step in further preparations for joining the EU.

Being it fully in line to the CEI strategy of cohesion and solidarity in Europe, the CEI will further encourage and support its other Member States (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FRY) in complying with the conditions laid down by the EU for the opening of negotiations for the conclusion of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. They welcomed, in particular, the progress achieved by Albania in this process.

The Heads of Government welcomed the political readiness of Moldova to join the EU Stabilisation and Association Process. They also expressed their full support for the efforts undertaken by the Moldovan authorities towards strengthening border control and re-establishing the common customs area in the Republic of Moldova.

They also welcomed Göteborg European Council decision on the participation of Ukraine and Moldova in the European Conference which opened further prospects for closer European co-operation.

11. The Heads of Government recognised the comprehensive role the OSCE plays in enhancing stability and security in Europe and reaffirmed the readiness of the CEI to develop further the co-operation with the OSCE in conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation, particularly in easing the tensions in South Eastern Europe.

The Heads of Government commended the work done by Romania as the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE.

CEI co-operation

12. The Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction with the CEI Summit Economic Forum, organised this year in Trieste with the active participation of the Ministers of economic sectors, and its role in mobilising representatives of all sectors of economic activity, and the private sector in particular, from any country in the world interested in the development of the CEI region. This economic development can be an instrument of stability, welfare and peace in the region if accompanied by regional co-operation.

The Heads of Government noted that new proposals for co-operation have been discussed by the SEF and they encouraged the organisers to follow up the suggestions made by the participants and to involve a broader European and international audience in the economic co-operation of the CEI.

The Heads of Government took note of the Final Declaration of the annual meeting of the Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce of the Central European Chambers of Commerce Initiative (CECCI) held in Trieste on 21 November 2001.

13. The Heads of Government welcomed the first CEI Youth Forum which was initiated by Poland during the CEI Summit 2000 in Budapest. They took note with appreciation of the final Declaration of the Youth Forum and expressed their full support to the objectives of the Declaration, recognising in particular the need of young people to have ensured physical and intellectual development as well as social integration into the societies of their countries and into wider European structures.

They expressed their appreciation for the idea to create a "CEI University", bringing together the young people from all the countries of the region, in order to contribute to the European integration.

14. The Heads of Government noted with appreciation the "CEI Plan of Action 2000 - 2001 Implementation Report" prepared by the CEI - Executive Secretariat for this CEI Summit which illustrate a substantial increase in CEI activities during the past two year period. The "CEI Plan of Action 2000 - 2001 Implementation Report" is attached to the Final Document.

The Heads of Government also took note of the WG activities report of 23 November 2001.

15. The Heads of Government, approving the CEI Plan of Action 2002-2003, called upon all responsible CEI working bodies and structures to implement the activities listed in the PoA, and to promote new initiatives for CEI co-operation. In particular, they reminded the WG chairpersons of their responsibility for the implementation of the PoA.

16. The Heads of Government welcomed the progress made on several programmes and projects by the Secretariat for CEI Projects using the CEI Fund at the EBRD provided by the Italian Government. They expressed satisfaction with the planned replenishment of the Fund, to be provided by the Italian Government for approximately Euro 5 millions.

They also welcomed the wide range of international events sponsored by the CEI for 2001, comprising workshops, seminars, training courses, and conferences.

They noted with satisfaction the important role of the EBRD for the development of investment in the CEI region and the opportunities that this provides for CEI-EBRD co-operation initiatives.

17. The Heads of Government took note of the progress in co-operation between the CEI and other European and international organisations and regional initiatives. In particular, they stressed

the fruitful implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Co-operation Programme between the CEI and the UN/ECE, especially in the field of SME development and investment promotion; the results of the co-operation between the CEI and the ICS-UNIDO for sustainable technological development of CEI countries; the importance of activities organised jointly with the OECD, especially in the framework of the LEED programme; the new co-operation with FAO in the agricultural field; the readiness for more co-ordination in planning with the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, Black Sea Economic Co-operation and SECI.

18. The Heads of Government welcomed the co-operation of Parliaments of CEI Member States and took note of the Final Document of the CEI Parliamentary Committee Meeting held in Rome on 9 March 2001, the results of the meeting of Speakers of Parliament in Budapest on 29-31 March 2001 and of the Final Declaration issued by the CEI Parliamentary Assembly in Rome on 26 October 2001. They stressed the crucial importance of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension as an essential and fundamental instrument that interacts and co-operates with the bodies of the CEI governmental dimension.

19. The Heads of Government welcomed the appointment by the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Trieste on 22 November 2001 of Ambassador Dr. Harald Kreid as the new Director General of the CEI – Executive Secretariat starting from 1 January 2002 for a three-years mandate with the option for a one time renewal of up to three more years.

The Heads of Government expressed their great appreciation for the excellent guidance provided by Amb. Dr. Paul Hartig to the CEI – Executive Secretariat as its Director General since his appointment in 1995.

20. The Heads of Government expressed their gratitude to the Italian Government for the excellent organisation of the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the CEI Member States, the Summit Economic Forum and the CEI Youth Forum in Trieste.

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Decision

The Heads of Government approved, in accordance with Art. 12 of the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure, the Plan of Action for 2002-2003.